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ABSTRACT

Seventeen elementary and secondary schools from throughout the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania region were selected from 67 applicant schools to receive grants for Local Action Programs of environmental education. Included in this booklet is a resume of each of these programs. Information specifies program name, school name and address, program leaders, number of students and grade levels, geographic and demographic descriptions of the school, and a synopsis of program goals and activities. The programs are administered through Project KARE (Knowledgeable Action to Restore Our Environment), an ESEA Title III Project. (BL)

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SKETCHES OF LOCAL ACTION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Conducted by Local Schools
from January to June, 1972,
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Project KARE
Colony Office Building
Route 73 and Butler Pike
Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422
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INTRODUCTION

Seventeen elementary and secondary schools from throughout the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania region were selected from among 67 applicant schools to receive grants for Local Action Programs of environmental education. The operating grants of up to $7,000.00 in support of each Local Action Program are being awarded during 1972 under federally-funded Project KARE (Knowledgeable Action to Restore our Environment), #71-7155, Section 306, ESEA Title III.

LOCAL ACTION PROGRAMS (LAPs)

Allegheny West
CCA

DOMES
ECO Valley
Facing the Problem
Glass Has Nine Lives
Operation Clean Sweep
Operation ECOL
Operation THETA

PLAN
Planned Development or Urban Sprawl . . . .
POF
Project EFFECT
Project REFUse

R-SCAPE
School Environment Contamination Study
To Improve the Goose Creek Watershed

Rhodes Middle School/Philadelphia
Strawberry Mansion Junior High School/Philadelphia
Friends Select School
Belmont Hills School/Lower Merion
Parkway Program/Philadelphia
Sharswood School/Philadelphia
Benjamin Franklin High School/Philadelphia
Walnut Street School/Darby-Colwyn
Chestnutwold School & Blessed John Neumann School/Haverford Township
Westtown Lower School
Central Bucks West High School/Central Bucks
William Tennent High School/Centennial
Upper Dublin High School/Upper Dublin
Lower Moreland Middle School/Lower Moreland Township
Roman Catholic High School/Archdiocese
Stewart Junior High School/Norristown Area

West Chester Area School District

LAP Name: ALLEGHENY WEST --
A Bicentennial Community

LAP School: Rhodes Middle School
(Philadelphia School District #4)
29th and Clearfield Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19032
Mr. Jacob Hoffman, Principal
221 - 0850

LAP Leaders: Mr. Jacob Hoffman, Leader
Mrs. Edith Gladden, Co-Leader
Mr. Bernard Korn, Co-Leader
Mr. Bruce Ryan, Co-Leader

LAP Students: All 1400 students of the school, grades 5 through 7.

Descriptors: Rhodes Middle School, which is non-graded, and its feeder elementary schools are located in an inner-city area of the City of Philadelphia.

Synopsis: Air, water, and noise pollution, as well as deterioration of living conditions, compose the prime environmental concerns for the LAP. Based on these prime areas of pollution, students have organized "Student Task Forces" to mobilize their attacks on the problems. Chief constructive citzenship activities are locating local causes of pollution in the community and in the school itself, and then applying pressure on community, City, and State agencies which might be brought in for corrective action where their own efforts require extension. The students are also studying suburban communities in order to determine how littered streets, abandoned cars, and crime are controlled.

LAP Name: CCA (Community for Constructive Action)

LAP School: Strawberry Mansion Junior High School
(Philadelphia School District #4 -- Model Cities)
32nd Street and Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132
Mr. Edward Gillespie, Principal
PO 5 - 3034

LAP Leader: Mr. Eugene S. Bivins, III, Leader

LAP Students: Approximately 50 students in grades 7 through ?.

Descriptors: Strawberry Mansion Junior High School is a public urban school grades 7 - 9 with an enrollment of 2700 students and is located in the Philadelphia Model Cities Area.

Synopsis: The LAP focuses on problems related to an economically-deprived, urban area: over-crowded living, crime, exploitation, pest infestation, lack of political awareness, and poor health conditions are among the observed environmental concerns. Chief objectives of the students are to achieve awareness of these problems among community residents and to establish and offer to them various alternative solutions in over-coming the problems. Students, working with various organizations such as the Urban League, and Community Health Services, deal direc'ly with the environmental problems and their victims at local levels. Petitions are circulated among the residents for signatures of support. The petitions serve to educate the residents and to make them aware of their environmental problems.

LAP Name: DOMES (Direct Observation Motivates Environmental Sensitivity)

LAP School: Friends Select School
The Parkway and 17th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Mr. G. Laurence Blauvelt, Headmaster
561 - 5900

LAP Leader: Mr. Bruce Waddington, Leader

LAP Students: A total of 328 students in grades 3 through 11.

Descriptors: With 550 students in grades K - 12, the school is located in center-city Philadelphia, and is conducted as a co-ed, private academic institution under the direction of two Philadelphia Monthly Meetings of Friends.

Synopsis: Deterioration of the various ecosystems of the environment surrounding the school provides the chief concern of the students. The prime objective of the LAP is to achieve student awareness of the vital inter-relationships of man and nature in an urban setting. Students are engaged in a variety of studies: growth of vegetables indoors; identification of city-hardy plants on lots and along streets; observation of the effect of paving materials on soil productivity; monitoring of air, water, and noise pollution levels; construction of a portable dome for environment simulation; the conduct of recycling projects; and recording on film the school neighborhood before the approaching redevelopment of the area. In broad terms, working throughout the local urban environment, the students seek to investigate and analyze actual environmental problems in relation to historic, sociologic, and ecologic backgrounds.

LAP Name: ECO VALLEY

LAP School: Belmont Hills Elementary School
(Lower Merion School District)
School Street (Belmont Hills)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19127
Mr. James Werkiser, Principal
MO 4 - 0395

LAP Leaders: Mrs. Sally Fricke, Leader
Mrs. Bonnie Atwood, Co-Leader
Mrs. Judy Satzberg, Co-Leader

LAP Students: Approximately 75 students in grade 5.

Descriptors: Belmont Hills School is a public elementary school with 500 students in grades 1 - 6 and is located in a suburban area of Montgomery County contiguous with the City of Philadelphia.

Synopsis: Students are concerned about illegal dumping of refuse by local truckers. Principal objectives of the LAP include reclamation of the dumping site, preservation of the site for nature studies and prevention of dumping refuse at other non-developed sites in the area. Interrelating physical and social science disciplines, student activities focus on achieving community awareness for the problem as well as utilizing community resources in correcting the damage already done to the study site. Fences are being erected, nature and access trails are being established, and students are being trained as guides, and over-seers, of the trails and study pond.

LAP Name: FACING THE PROBLEM

LAP School: Philadelphia Parkway Program
(School District of Philadelphia)
C/O The Franklin Institute
20th Street and The Parkway
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Dr. Leonard B. Finkelstein, Director
448 - 3761

LAP Leaders: Mrs. Jane Marter, Leader
Mrs. Winifred Kempton, Co-Leader
Mrs. Ida Davis, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 180 students with approximately 45 students selected from each of four educational units of the Parkway Program.

Descriptors: The Parkway Program, an innovative co-ed project, draws a total of 800 students from all eight public school districts in the Philadelphia Intermediate Unit.

Synopsis: The students view unwed pregnancies, venereal disease, unwanted and improperly cared for children, and over-population as important environmental concerns. The aim is to educate students regarding the medical and social implications of these concerns. Initially, students participate in intensive classroom discussions with representatives of City and community agencies which are "facing the problem". Additionally, the students are being placed in work/learn situations with community agencies such as Planned Parenthood, American Cancer Society, The United Fund, and The Department of Public Health, working four hours per week on actual cases and field research. Students in each unit of the Parkway Program are establishing information centers for conducting awareness drives in the unit and in cooperating suburban high schools. Additionally, inservice training programs are being conducted for Parkway staff and interns.

LAP Name: GLASS HAS NINE LIVES

LAP School: Sharswood Elementary School
(Philadelphia School District #3)
2nd and Wolf Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19148
Mr. Rocco Gigante, Principal
DE 4 - 1506

LAP Leaders: Mrs. Isabel Bushkoff, Leader
Mrs. Joyce Kail, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 640 students in grades K - 6, including 2 classes of retarded children.

Descriptors: A public elementary school, Sharswood School is located in a high-population density, inner-city area of Philadelphia.

Synopsis: Students identified discarded glass as a serious problem in their neighborhoods. Broken glass litters streets, alleys, vacant lots, and the schoolyard. The LAP aims to alert the community to the environmental hazards of broken glass; to lessen the amount of glass in the neighborhood; to teach pollution awareness to the students of the school; and to promote community-school cooperation. Major activities include "Operation Typewriter", a multi-media information approach to achieving community awareness and cooperation, and the collection of broken glass during a clean-up campaign whereby proceeds from students recycling efforts will be reinvested into the LAP activities.

LAP Name: OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

LAP School: Benjamin Franklin High School
(Philadelphia School District #2 -- Model Cities)
Broad and Green Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130
Mr. Leon Bass, Principal
LO 7 - 7045

LAP Leader: Mr. Charles Staniskis, Leader

LAP Students: A total of 72 students, 24 each from grades 10 - 12.

Descriptors: A public high school, grades 10 - 12, with a total enrollment of 1700 male students, Benjamin Franklin serves a section of the Philadelphia Model Cities Area.

Synopsis: Student environmental concerns include rat infestation, lead poisoning, abandoned cars, noise and air pollution, graffiti, gang problems, and population density. The chief objective of the LAP is to achieve a cleaner, safer better-informed community. Student activities are geared to providing all-out attacks on each environmental concern by student/community action groups. This is being provided on three levels: 1) an "action line" to handle telephone calls for help from community persons, 2) a liaison group to refer health and sanitation problems to appropriate city agencies, and 3) an information dissemination group to generate community awareness for environmental problems.

LAP Name: OPERATION ECOL (Environmental Comparison of Localities)

LAP School: Walnut Street Elementary School
(Darby-Colwyn Joint School District)
6th and Walnut Streets
Darby, Pennsylvania 19023
Mr. John B. Marino, Principal
LU 6 - 1812

LAP Leaders: Mr. Curt Weldon, Leader
Mr. John Dreyer, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 50 students in grade 6.

Descriptors: Walnut Street School is a public elementary school with 600 students in grades K - 6 in a suburban area of Delaware County contiguous with the City of Philadelphia which shows many urban characteristics.

Synopsis: Student concerns lie in the deterioration of the Darby and Cobbs Creek as recreational, educational, natural, and aesthetic settings for the citizens of Darby and Colwyn. Primary objective is to assay and develop the combined creek watersheds through joint school/community efforts. Student activities involve in-depth investigation of the creek pollution, comparison analyses of creeks in non-urban settings, endeavors to clean up the creeks, and establishment of study sites on the creeks for utilization by students and community groups. Students also are initiating an environmental-education program to inform local citizens of the pollution problem and ways by which they might contribute to solutions.

LAP Name: OPERATION THETA

LAP Schools:

Chestnutwold Elementary School
(Haverford Township School District)
Loraine Street
Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003
Mr. Richard Schaefer, Principal
446 - 4570

and:

Blessed John Neumann School (R.C.)
Radnor Road and Highland Lane
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania 19010
Sister Ann Rosaire, Principal
525 - 9013

LAP Leaders:

Mr. Harry Ernst, Leader
Sister Ann Rosaire, Coordinator
Mr. Richard Schaefer, Coordinator

LAP Students: A total of 400 students in grades 1 through 6.

Descriptors: Both co-ed elementary schools, one public and one parochial, with 525 students, serve suburban communities of Delaware County close to the City of Philadelphia.

Synopsis: The students are alarmed at the rapid depletion of nutritive elements in soils at selected sites in Haverford Township. During extensive field and laboratory studies of these soils, the primary activities are to illustrate "before and after" effects of man's abuse of soils, to examine the results of treating planted soils with various nutrients and radiation, to carry out field population studies, and to compare data with that obtained by students in an urban school. The chief objective of the LAP is to help the students understand the effects of soil/abuse on dependent plant and animal life.

LAP Name: PLAN (Preservation of Land And Nature)

LAP School: Westtown Lower School
(Westtown School)
Westtown, Pennsylvania 19395
Mr. Earl Harrison, Headmaster
Ms. Jane Watt, Principal
399 - 0123

LAP Leaders: Mrs. Katherine T. Frysinger, Leader
Ms. Margaret Lippincott, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 131 students in grades Pre-One through 6 (each grade averages 19 students).

Descriptors: Westtown School, a co-ed, non-public school with 131 students in grades K - 6, is operated by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends and is located in rural Chester County.

Synopsis: Primary environmental concerns of the students relate to the ecosystems which are found on the school campus. The purpose is to examine carefully each ecosystem in its present conditions, and to restore those which have been abused. In this way, a unique variety of natural habitats are being maintained and used by Westtown students as well as youngsters from other schools in Chester and Delaware Counties. A feasibility study is also being conducted to determine if an old mill on the premises is suitable for use as an ecology center and a connecting hiking and bicycle trail might be coordinated with the environmental plans of West Chester Area School District.

LAP Name: PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OR URBAN SPRAWL -- the impact of transportation

LAP School: Central Bucks West High School
(Central Bucks School District)
West Court Street
Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901
Dr. David Spahr, Principal
345 - 1661

LAP Leaders: Mr. David Horne, Leader
Mrs. Pat Tarler, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 375 students in grades 10 - 12 with participants drawn primarily from science, mathematics, and social studies classes.

Descriptors: Central Bucks West High School is a public school with 1460 students in grades 10 - 12 which is a part of a large suburban school system located in central Bucks County.

Synopsis: Phase I focuses on the transportation needs of residents in central Bucks County. At least 90 percent of the labor force in this area commutes to jobs outside their local communities, many of which are in urban areas. Primary activities include analysis of existing and projected rail and highway demands, study of the effect of planned transportation improvements on local ecosystems and the business community. Particular emphasis is being placed on the impact of a major highway bypass on natural systems and resources, and critical features of the area. Chief objective is to devise and propose with local planning bodies alternate methods of providing for future transportation needs through mass transit systems.

LAP Name: POF (Planning Our Future)

LAP School: William Tennent High School
(Centennial School District)
Street and Newtown Roads
Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974
Mr. James Exum, Principal
OS 2 - 7100

LAP Leaders: Mr. Ulysses F. Biffoni, Leader
Mr. Robert Romano, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 2106 students in grades 10 through 12.

Descriptors: A public senior high school with 2500 students in grades 10 through 12, William Tennent High School is located in a high population-density area of suburban lower Bucks County.

Synopsis: Students identified several areas of environmental concern: air pollution due to incineration, water pollution, contamination during food processing, noise pollution, over-population, and esthetic aspects of ecology. Local objectives of the LAP entail attempts to influence the re-design of zoning laws, to eliminate local pollution menaces from the community, to establish a course for evening-school adults on environmental problems, and to conduct an on-going community-information program. Principal activities involve the establishment of various "Eco-Groups" for field projects relating to the selected pollution areas including ineffective sanitary landfills, rat infestation, and air particulates. Many activities are being video-taped for use by schools throughout the five-county region.

LAP Name: PROJECT EFFECT

LAP School: Upper Dublin High School
(Upper Dublin School District)
Loch Alsh and Ft. Washington Avenues
Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania 19034
Mr. Frank Gilronan, Principal
MI 6 - 5600

LAP Leaders: Mr. David Waltman, Leader
Mr. Daniel Jaycox, Co-Leader
Mr. William Ritter, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 60 senior high school students in grades 10 - 12 and 30 elementary school students in grades K - 6.

Descriptors: Upper Dublin High School is a public school with 1258 students in grades 10 - 12 and is part of a suburban school system located in central Montgomery County.

Synopsis: Students are concerned that run-offs and effluents entering stream systems tributary to the Wissahickon Creek are detrimental to water quality. Chief objectives are to monitor local streams in conjunction with monitoring of the Wissahickon Creek by students in urban Philadelphia schools. Collected data will enable the students to determine the influences of Upper Dublin's industrial and residential areas on the environmental quality of the water. Twenty-four field-testing stations are being established along the Sandy Run, Pine Run, and Wissahickon Creeks. After computer analysis of the data, sociological and recreational implications will be investigated. This information will then be utilized to support positions for community action to abate pollution of the creeks.

LAP Name: PROJECT REFUse (Revitalize the Environment for Future Use)

LAP School:
Lower Moreland Middle School
(Lower Moreland Township School District)
2551 Murray Avenue
Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006
Mr. Edward Cosslett, Principal
WI 7 - 2200

LAP Leaders:
Mrs. Jacquelyn Volk, Leader
Mr. Thomas Wittkamp, Co-Leader
Mr. Roger Fetterman, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 43 students in grades 6 through 10 with the remaining student body participating in auxiliary LAP activities.

Descriptors: Lower Moreland Middle School is a public school grades 6 - 8 with 748 students enrolled and is located in a suburban area of Montgomery County contiguous with the City of Philadelphia.

Synopsis: The major environmental concern is the polluted discharge from a township-operated sanitary landfill into a tributary of the Pennypack Creek. Local objectives of the LAP include encouraging students to apply classroom knowledge to solving actual community problems, helping students develop realization that they might be agents of change in their communities, and recognizing the need for equity in the planning of service areas when planning local residential areas. Principal activities involve an analytic comparison of the sanitary landfill relative to successfully-operated landfills in the area, student production of a documentary on the sanitary landfill for community viewing, and coordination of efforts by local organizations to reduce the polluted discharge and to plan for more concerned allocation of community services.

LAP Name: R-SCAPE (Roman Students Concerned About Preserving the Environment)

LAP School: Roman Catholic High School
(Archdiocese of Philadelphia)
Broad and Vine Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Rev. Charles V. Gallen, Principal
MA 7 - 1270

LAP Leaders: Rev. William J. Paul, Leader
Mr. Gerald Gibbons, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 20 students in grades 9 through 12.

Descriptors: Roman Catholic High School is an academic parochial school with approximately 940 male students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 and is located in inner-city Philadelphia.

Synopsis: The prime environmental concern of the students is pollution of the Manayunk Canal and the Wissahickon Creek at their confluence with the Schuylkill River. As a student arm of the Schuylkill River Anti-Pollution Alliance, the LAP aims to instruct students and their community in the consequences of water pollution. Students perform biologic and chemical analyses of the water at the study site and in laboratories, provide watch-dog groups to monitor effluents and discharges into the river, and carry on dialogs with student and community groups concerning efforts to preserve the environment.

LAP Name: SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT CONTAMINATION STUDY

LAP School: Stewart Junior High School
(Norristown Area School District)
Marshall and Selma Streets
Norristown, Pennsylvania 19401
Mr. Harry Spangler, Principal
277 - 1000

LAP Leaders: Mr. Thomas J. Fennessey, Jr., Leader
Mrs. Deanna Rosenbaum, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 300 students in grades K - 6, 200 students in grades 7 - 9, and 100 students in grades 10 - 12.

Descriptors: Norristown Area School District is a public school system composed or urban and suburban areas in Montgomery County. Primary student activities emanate from the junior high school with 950 students in grades 6 - 9, but take place in all schools in the area including parochial schools.

Synopsis: Students and teachers performed surveys which verified that their individual schools are potent polluters of their local environments. Accordingly, the LAP focuses in Phase I on substantiating further through scientific research the pollution output (air, water, noise, and land) for each school building. In Phase II, the students will analyze their data in order to offer recommendations and potential solutions to school authorities. Key activities during Phase I include total paper-output surveys, water-usage tracings, sanitary-landfill inspections, land-usage studies, and noise-level analysis. Pilot demonstrations relating to Phase I results are being video-taped in the LAP school for presentation and discussion in other schools and to community groups in order to generate awareness of the contaminated school environment.

LAP Name: TO IMPROVE THE GOOSE CREEK WATERSHED

LAP School: Paoli Pike School
Westtown-Thornbury School
E. N. Peirce School
(West Chester Area School District)

Central Offices:

320 North Church Street
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380
Mr. Harold H. Wingerd, Superintendent
696 - 2570

LAP Leaders: Mr. Walter B. Knighton, Leader
Mr. Edward Goldberg, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 510 students in grades 5 and 6 of the three schools.

Descriptors: West Chester Area School District, a public school system in Chester County, contains within its boundaries rural, suburban, and urban attendance areas. Accordingly, each LAP school differs demographically. Total K - 6 enrollment for the three schools is 1190 students.

Synopsis: The primary environmental concern of the students is the extensive pollution of Goose Creek and its Watershed. The campus for each LAP school borders on the creek. Chief activities of students include analysis of the extent of pollution, development of a hiking trail along the creek, establishment of two outdoor classrooms, development of an environmental study site, and the conduct of a citizen alert program concerning the environmental abuse of the creek. Students, therefore, are achieving a first-hand understanding of the pollution problem while at the same time contributing toward community efforts to clean up the Watershed area.